amount) was obtained from the Company before telecast of each film.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of 24-hour FM radio channel

†75. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to introduce a 24-hour FM radio channel during last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the same, so far; and

(c) by when Government would like to introduce the broadcasting of such channel alongwith the number of hours during which the news will be broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In July 1999, the Government had taken a decision to open FM Radio Broadcasting Service to the private sector.

(b) Tenders were invited in October 1999 for 40 centres, in Phase I. Letters of intent were issued to 26 companies in August 2000. 16 companies have signed the agreement and submitted Bank Guarantee. One FM Radio Station at Bangalore started operation recently.

(c) The Programme Content for private FM broadcasts excludes news and current affairs and covers only areas like music entertainment, information and education.

Films funded by the Ministry

76. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of films funded by her Ministry during the last two years to create social awareness;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether objectives were achieved; and

(c) the action proposed to give more publicity for the success of such films.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Films Division has been provided funds by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to produce various news magazines and films to create social awareness. During the year 1999-2000 Films Division has produced 16 films and 1 news magazine and during the year 2000-2001 the Division has produced 32 films and 10 news magazines on a wide range of subjects like environment, women's empowerment, communal harmony, music, culture, health etc. The films and news magazines produced by Films Division are dubbed in 15 regional languages and released through approximately 13,000 cinema houses throughout the country. Apart from this, tese films are also exhibited in video formate by the Directorate of Field Publicity in rural areas. They are also loaned to various institutions, societies, NGOs etc. Films Division also holds film festivals in important cities and State capitals regularly to increase the reach of the films and news magazines for creating social awareness amongst the masses.

Proposed auction of National Channel slots to private parties

77. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan proposes to auction some of the National Channel slots to private parties;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) in what manner will DD control the contents of the programmes given out by the private parties, especially with its own assigned role of a public broadcaster to educate, inform and entertain the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.